

Message Text

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EUR:AAHARTMAN

S/S: JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T STATE 139991

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO ARMS EMBARGO

FOR THE CHARGE - DELIVER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

1. AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON THE SECRETARY AND HARTMAN JUNE 13. HE SAID HE HAD AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM ANKARA ASKING HIM TO PROVIDE BY JUNE 15 HIS FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR POSITIVE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. ESENBEL SAID THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE MEETING JUNE 16 AND MIGHT DECIDE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST US FACILITIES. THE SECRETARY STRONGLY ADVISED THAT TURKEY SHOULD TAKE NO HASTY ACTION NOW THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE HOUSE WAS MOVING TO RESTORE ARMS SHIPMENTS. HARTMAN REFERRED TO HIS CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING THAT MORNING OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO SUB-COMMITTEES INVOLVED, HAMILTON AND FASCELL, AND THEIR DECISION TO INITIATE ACTION ON A TURKISH ARMS BILL IMMEDI-

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ATELY. ESENBEL ASKED FOR AN INDICATION OF THE TIMING OF

PASSAGE OF SUCH A BILL AND SECRETARY SAID HE THOUGHT IT COULD BE DONE IN THE FIRST HALF OF JULY, WITH VISIBLE SIGNS OF PROGRESS BEFORE THE END OF JUNE.

2. IN VIEW OF THIS AND OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT DECIDE TO TAKE EARLY ACTION AGAINST US FACILITIES, THE SECRETARY WISHES YOU IMMEDIATELY TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL.

3. BEGIN MESSAGE. WHEN I MET WITH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL JUNE 13 HE ASKED FOR MY JUDGMENT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. HE INDICATED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON BE IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING WHAT ACTION IT SHOULD TAKE IN THIS REGARD.

4. I TOLD AMBASSADOR ESENBEL, AND I REITERATE TO YOU, THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE GREATLY ADMIRERED THE RESTRAINT AND PATIENCE WITH WHICH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS DEALT WITH THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE CUTOFF OF AMERICAN ARMS. ALTHOUGH PROGRESS TOWARD RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES HAS NOT BEEN AS RAPID AS WE EXPECTED, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD BILL BY THE SENATE. IMMEDIATELY ON OUR RETURN FROM BRUSSELS THE PRESIDENT AND I MADE CONTACT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH WE ANTICIPATE THAT ACTION TO MOVE A BILL THROUGH THE HOUSE WILL BEGIN THIS COMING WEEK. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT SENTIMENT FOR REMOVAL OF THE EMBARGO IS GROWING. OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WILL REQUIRE A LITTLE MORE TIME DURING WHICH WE HOPE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERSTAND THE ADVANTAGES OF DELAYING ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT AFFECT OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIP.

5. I WANT YOU TO KNOW, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THAT IF I DID NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS TO BRING AN EARLY END TO THE EMBARGO WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, I WOULD NOT NOW ASK YOU TO BE PATIENT ANY LONGER. HOWEVER, I DO ASK FOR YOUR PATIENCE BECAUSE I DO BELIEVE THAT THE END OF THE EMBARGO IS IN SIGHT. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH AND THAT A BILL TO
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LIFT THE EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE FULL HOUSE BEFORE MID JULY. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO ASSURE YOU THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO REMOVE THIS IMPEDIMENT IN OUR RELATIONS QUICKLY SO THAT THE TRADITIONAL BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES MAY BE PRESERVED AND STRENGTHENED. END MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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